

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2 and 3 have been combined into claim 1. Other claims were amended to make them consistent with claim 1 and to improve their form. Claim 13 concerns the centering member apart from the tool.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In view of the amendments to the claims, reconsideration is requested.

In the text of what used to be claim 2, and now in claim 1, “base” has been replaced with “boss” which was meant and that clarifies.

The “gripping means” of former claim 2 is a gripping device now defined in amended claim 1.

Claims 1-12 are now to a combination of the plane tool with a centering member, making clearer what had been unclear.

New claim 13 claims a centering member without combination with the plane tool. As can be seen in Fig. 1, there is a first boss and, as seen in Fig. 3, an aperture shaped to receive that first boss with the gripping device 23, 25 defined at the groove 26. The separate second boss is also provided.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kytta, with the Examiner saying that all of the elements of both claims are present. Reconsideration is requested as to amended claim 1, which combines claims 2 and 3 and more precisely defines the connecting member in that combination. That there is a connecting member shaped to receive one boss, and that the boss has a groove that defines a head including a gripping device are not suggested in Kytta. Kytta instead shows a split head with two parts, both coming into the single aperture, whereas Applicant’s one aperture in the plane tool is sized and placed to receive one, but not both, of the bosses. Further, Applicant’s groove is sized to give the head mechanical elasticity, whereas with the split head in Kytta, the grooves enable locking but not due to mechanical elasticity as the mechanical elasticity is in the relatively moveable two parts (or bosses) of the insert toward and away from each other, and not from a groove in a boss. Applicant’s claim 1 is neither shown nor suggested in Kytta.

Claims 1, 2 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Mez. Reconsideration is requested because Mez has no suggestion of a tool with an aperture shaped and sized as

Applicant recites nor does Mez disclose two bosses with one boss including a groove and a gripping device. It is acknowledged that Mez discloses a horizontal hole. But, Applicant's claim 1 and therefore all of the other claims have numerous other elements distinguishing Applicant's claims from Mez.

Claims 1, 2 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Dion. Reconsideration is requested. Dion shows a single rivet shank with a split end adapted to fit into a single aperture, whereas Applicant's plane tool has an aperture from one or both of the bosses, distinguishing Dion. Further, Dion does not suggest Applicant's gripping device nor the groove that gives elasticity thereto. Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereupon are allowable.

Claims 11 and 12 specifically define the right parallelepiped head shape of the first boss and of both bosses, respectively, not shown in any of the prior art.

New claim 13 covers a centering member as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, including features neither shown nor suggested in the references, particularly related to the presence of the gripping device on one of the bosses and the right parallelepiped cross-sectional shape of the bosses, which are spaced apart on the base. Allowance of claim 13 is requested as well.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that remaining claims 3-13 are allowable and their allowance is requested.

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Signature

December 28, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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